

AERIAL APPLICATION TO CONTROL MOSQUITO LARVAE

The East Middlesex Mosquito Control Project will be conducting a helicopter application of the biological larvicide, Bti, to control mosquito larvae over large wetlands in Reading. The application will take place between April 21 and April 29. Areas currently being evaluated are: the Ipswich River flood plain, Anderson Meadow and wetlands adjacent to the following sites Brentwood Rd., Grove St., Haverhill St., Libby Ave., Lindsey St., Nelson Rd., Rocky Rd., Sanborn Lane, West St. and Willow St. The granular formulation of Bti will be applied by a helicopter flying low directly over the wetlands. Residents do not need to take any special precautions for this application.

The material to be applied, Bti (*Bacillus thuringiensis var. israelensis*), is a natural bacterium found in soil. The EPA classifies Bti as a relatively non-toxic pesticide. Bti is considered a target selective and environmentally compatible pesticide that affects mosquito larvae and a few closely related aquatic insects in the fly family. Once applied Bti stays suspended in water for 24 to 48 hours and then biodegrades as it settles to the bottom. The product name of the Bti is VectoBac G (EPA Reg. #73049-10).

For further information, contact the East Middlesex Mosquito Control Project at 781-899-5730.